



FEMALE CRIME IN MONTENEGRO: PREVALENCE, CAUSES AND PREVENTIVE MEASURES

SmolovićValentina¹ | DraškovićMilan²

¹ Mr-PhD student, High Court, Podgorica, Montenegro - 81000.

² Full Professor, Higher School of Professional Business Studies Čačak, Belgrad, Serbia - 11000.

ABSTRACT

Female crime, is a negative social phenomenon with a tendency of continual growth in Montenegro, but nevertheless due to the low rate of female crime (7.3% of convicted women) in relation to the male crime (92.7% of convicted men) there is very little empirical research on female crime in Montenegro. The purpose of the research in this study is to obtain information on the extent, dynamics and structure of reported, accused and convicted adult women in Montenegro in the period from 2001 to 2014. Special emphasis is given to the research of crime of convicted adult women who were serving and are serving a prison sentence in the Institute for execution of criminal sanctions-ZIKS in Podgorica in the given period. With the use of qualitative methods on a representative sample (126 prisoners), relevant information has been obtained based on which responsible persons in ZIKS, define preventive measures and appropriate programs of educational corrective treatment in accordance with the standards of the European Union, with the aim of re-education and re-socialization of convicts during the period of imprisonment.

KEYWORDS: Female Crime, quantitative analysis, punitive reaction, preventive reaction, corrective reaction, treatment.

Introduction

Female crime, or socially unacceptable behavior of women, as a negative social phenomenon, dates back from the earliest times of human society (tribal communities), and it can be said to have appeared at the same time as male crime.

The global financial, economic and social crisis has affected the increase of female crime both in developed and in developing and transition countries. Turbulent events (disintegration of the state, war, transition...) that have befallen Montenegrin society over the last twenty years caused the social, politic, economic and moral crisis. All these negative events affected the increase in crime of adult women in Montenegro. In the past, women in Montenegro used to live by rigid rules of patriarchal society where they were unwanted by the very birth, however, they married and selflessly devoted their life to family, husband, children, and thus accomplish themselves. The participation of women in the labor market in Montenegro has significantly increased in the last few decades and they have become an active participants in general public events and an equal member of the community. They are taking on roles that have previously belonged to men and are becoming increasingly successful and equal partner in the execution of business tasks, but unfortunately criminal offenses as well.

Methods:

Methods of descriptive statistics obtained from the qualitative methods have been used for the purpose of this study (Djedović, et al., 2013), as well as the analysis of the contents of official documents of competent state institutions (Statistical Office of Montenegro, 2001-2014).

Sample:

1. Economic, political, social and moral crisis are all sources of significant etymologic risk factors for the emergence and development of female crime.
2. Percentage of female offenders in relation to adult male offenders is significantly lower.
3. Crimes against property are seen as the most frequent crimes committed by women.
4. A well-designed educational-corrective treatment enables positive change in the personality of the female prisoners, but the success of this treatment or process depends on the positive attitude of inmates and support they have in the process.

Results and discussions:

Analysis of the volume and dynamics of reported, accused and convicted adult women in Montenegro is given in Table 1 and Figure 1.

Table 1: Volume and dynamics of reported, accused and convicted adult women in Montenegro in the period from 2001 to 2014.

Years	Reported	Accused	Convicted
2001	390	195	195
2002	223	122	101
2003	335	181	154
2004	306	168	138
2005	352	197	155
2006	662	358	304
2007	437	233	204
2008	669	352	317
2009	776	416	360
2010	648	360	288
2011	559	305	254
2012	447	247	200
2013	495	273	222
2014	472	253	219
Total	6771	3660	3111

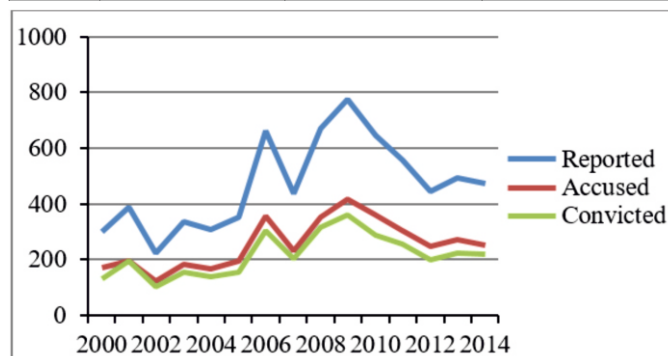


Figure 1. Volume and dynamics of reported, accused and convicted adult women in Montenegro in the period from 2001 to 2014.

From Table 1 and Figure 1. it can be seen that the total number of filed applications for a criminal offense committed by a female adult offenders in the given period grew steadily and reached a number of (100%) of 6771, out of which 54.1% (3660) accused and 45.9% (3111) convicted. Out of the total number of reported the highest increase was recorded in 2009, with 11.5% (776), and the lowest 3.3% in 2002 (223). The number of the accused was the highest in 2009 11.4% (416), and the lowest in 2002 with 3.3% (122). The number of convicted adult females was the highest in 2009, with 11.6% (360), and the lowest number

accounted for 3.2% (101). In total volume, dynamics and structure of convicted adult women by groups of criminal offenses (Criminal Code of Montenegro, 2003), the given period was dominated by crimes against property, 23.2% (723) and offenses against public traffic safety 19.6% (609). Next, in descending order are the following crimes: against life and body with 9.2% (285), honor and reputation 5.7% (177), legal traffic with 5.5% (172), humanity and other offenses 3.6% (113), marriage and family 3.6% (112), payment operations and commercial operations 3.4% (107), human and civil rights 3.1% (95), general safety of people and property 2.4% (76), the official duties 2.4% (76), gender freedom 2.4% (76), public peace and order 2.1% (65), health of people 1.7% (53), labor rights 1.7% (52) environmental rights 1.4% (45), safety of computer data, 1.3% (41), against judiciary 0.9% (29), the army of Montenegro 0.9% (27), author, inventor and related rights 0.8% (25), constitutional order and security of the Republic of Montenegro 0.7% (21) and the electoral rights of 0.1% (3). The dynamics of receiving a female prisoners to serve their prison sentence in ZIKS in the given period, is shown in Table 2 and Figure 2.

Table 2. Number of female prisoners in the period from 2001. to 2014.

Yer.		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Pri.	No.	5	9	9	2	9	13	15	23
	%	1,5	2,6	2,6	0,6	2,6	3,8	4,4	6,7
Yer.		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014		
Pri.	No.	41	47	56	32	33	32	Σ	344
	%	12,0	13,7	16,3	9,3	9,6	9,3	%	100

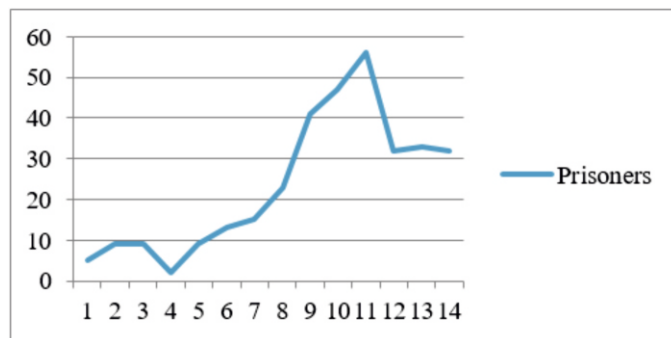


Figure 2. Number of female prisoners in the period from 2001. to 2014.

Based on the data in Table 2 and Figure 2 it can be concluded that the total number of female prisoners in ZIKS in the given period was (100%) 344. The highest number of female prisoners to serve their sentence was in 2011 with 16.3% (56), and the lowest was in 2004 with 0.6% (2).

The application of qualitative methods (interviews and surveys) on representative sample of 126 inmates. The interview is held with female convicts on their arrival to serve the sentence, while surveys are filled upon the completion of the period of their imprisonment. Based on the interviews, the following data has been obtained, or information that will be useful to professional services in order to adapt the treatment to each individual prisoner:

The national structure of female prisoners was the following: Montenegrin nationals 81.0% (102) and prisoners from other countries 19.0% (24). The ethnic origin of female prisoners who are Montenegrin nationals was the following: Montenegrin 62.7% (64), Muslim 26.5% (27), Serbian 5.9% (6), Roma 3.9% (4), Croatian 1.0% (1), however, most of the female prisoners from other countries were from Serbia 41.6% (10), Bosnia and Herzegovina 29.16% (7) and Albania 8.3% (2), Macedonia, Romania, Russia, Ukraine and Lithuania by 4.2% (1).

Socio-demographic characteristics of the sample: most of the prisoners were between 26-30 years of age 22.2% (28), between 36-40 years of life 19.8% (25), between 41-46 years, 16.7% (21), between 31-35. years 12.7% (16), between 18-25 years of age 11.1% (14), from 46 to 50 years 5.5% (7), between 51 and 55% 4.8% (6), between 56 to 60 4.0% (5) and over 60 years 3.2% (4).

Educational qualifications: university degree 5.5% (7), college degree, 57.9% (73), high school degree 3.2% (4), elementary education 20.6% (26) four year primary education 4.0% (5), and illiterate 8.7% (11).

Employment status of female prisoners: unemployed 59.5% (75) employed 28.6% (36), student 4.8% (6) and retired 7.1% (9).

The research results on the basis of pre-prepared structured questionnaires:

- length of imprisonment: up to 1 year 54.8% (69), from 1 to 5 years 30.1% (38), from 6 to 10 years, 11.1% (14) and over 10 years 4.0% (5),
- the status of prisoners: semi-open department 41.3% (52) and closed department 58.7% (74)

- classification group: I classification group 58.7% (52), II classification group 30.1% (38), III classification group 20.6% (26) and IV classification group 7.9% (10)

- tasks that they performed in prison: hygiene in double rooms 4.0% (5), maintaining hygiene in the premises for preparing food 5.5% (7), gardening jobs 5.5% (7), jobs in the laundry 11.9% (15) grading eggs 18.3% (23) and without working engagement 49.3% (62)
- Leisure activities of female prisoners: library (reading books and writing compositions) 10.3% (13), a computer room 11.9% (15), leisure activities (sewing, knitting, tailoring, art club) 19.1% (24), resting 25.4% (32) and board games (Yahtzee, Dominoes) 33.3% (42)
- communication with relatives and friends in prison: through regular visits 100.0% (126), via postal services 100.0% (126), through the use of award absences 24.6% (31) and through extraordinary visits 23.9% (30)
- Staff- prisoners relationship: in accordance with the Book of Rules 83.3% (105) and the unprofessional relationship (against the Book of Rules) of extraordinary visits 16.7% (21)
- Health care in prison, the type of health care services: use of specialized hospitals (dentist, gynecologist, psychiatrist, physiotherapist) 31.1% (38), services of the Clinical Center of Montenegro, 18.2% (23) services of the Health Centre in Danilovgrad 11.9% (15), services of the Health centre in Podgorica 7.1% (9), services of Public Health Institution Brezovik (Hospital for pulmonary diseases) 0.8% (1) and health care services out of the prison institution were not used 31.4% (40),
- the performance of religious rituals: did not use the right to religious rituals 76.2% (96), and used the right to perform religious rituals 23.8% (30),
- dissatisfaction with the staff-prisoners relationship: the attitude of security officers towards female prisoners, 11.1% (14), the attitude of employees in health services by 4.8% (6), the attitude of the administration (Mayor, Director) 2.4% (3) and without objections 80, 1% (101),
- satisfaction of female prisoners with the following: the use of mobile phone 100.0% (126) accommodation in the women's department of 100.0% (126), the attitude of teachers 98.4% (124), the attitude of security officers 88.9% (112) and health care 95.2% (120),
- the expectation of the society after release from prison: a normal reception of family 75.4% (95), initial suspicion of 12.7% (16) and total rejection of the society 11.9% (15). The obtained results of the survey do not necessarily provide a true and accurate picture of conditions in prison, relations and the treatment, due to the difficulty in assessing the subjective perception of prisoners, their sincerity of what they really think about the conditions of life in prison. Despite these shortcomings, the obtained data represent useful information on the success of the implementation of tasks: security, re-education and work of female prisoners during the period of imprisonment, which will be useful for removal of shortcomings for the future prisoners.

Conclusions:

Female crime is a serious problem for Montenegrin society despite the fact that they commit minor misdemeanors, but due to patriarchal understanding female crime has a negative impact on the family, socio-psychological climate and socio-demographic and economic situation. High turnover of adult women coming in and out of prison, lack of financial resources, insufficient high-quality personnel are limiting variables for the provision of adequate training programs, vocational education courses for female prisoners with the aim of successful re-socialization.

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